

## Highly Qualified Teachers

The State of Idaho continues to define for itself many aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB). Many definitions, as they are developed, are forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education for review. One of the key elements the State has taken a position on is the “Highly Qualified Teacher” definition. Idaho’s definition for determining if an existing teacher is highly qualified under NCLB is outlined in item **one (1)** below.

There is some anxiety about Highly Qualified Teachers under the NCLB and how that portion of the Act impacts local school districts. After discussing the regulations, conducting several reviews with stakeholder representatives, and discussing the guidelines with representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, and with *final State Board of Education approval, Idaho has taken the following position. Idaho’s plan for implementing all facets of NCLB continues to be subject to federal review.* Please read the following information.

1. **Teachers in Idaho who hold endorsements on valid Idaho teaching certificates issued by the State of Idaho are considered highly qualified to teach in those endorsement areas.**
2. A **new** teacher seeking an Idaho certificate to teach in a core academic subject area must meet the definition of a NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher. **All teachers must have a bachelor’s degree.**
3. The core academic subjects are **English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.**
4. **New** teachers must complete a state-approved teacher preparation program or an Idaho state-approved alternative certification program.
5. **New** elementary teachers must pass the Idaho state-approved assessment in elementary curriculum and the Idaho state-approved assessment in pedagogy. (Effective 9/1/04)
6. **New** middle school or secondary academic core teachers must meet one of the following:
  - a. Earn a major in the subject area they are to teach, **or**
  - b. Earn credits equal to a major in the subject area, **or**
  - c. Earn an advanced degree in the subject area, **or**
  - d. Earn an advanced certificate in the subject area, **and**
  - e. Pass the Idaho state-approved subject area test. (Effective 9/1/04)
7. **New** Special Education teachers must pass two Idaho state-approved assessments in Special Education (effective 9/1/04) and may have to meet content knowledge requirements for middle or secondary school certification (dependent upon IDEA re-authorization).
8. **New** teachers seeking a certificate in Blended Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education must pass two Idaho state-approved assessments. (Effective 9/1/04)
9. Under the highly qualified teacher definition in NCLB, no certificate in the core academic subjects will be issued on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.
10. The objective is to have all teachers in the core academic subject areas highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. States and schools must implement a plan to increase the number of highly qualified teachers, and schools must notify parents of children who have teachers that have not met the highly qualified standard.
11. The State Board of Education’s MOST (Maximizing Opportunities for Students and Teachers) project developed, and the SBOE approved, standards and certification requirements for newly certificated teachers.

(This statement subsequent to March, 2003 memo and the  
October 29, 2003 federal Teacher Assistance Core visit)  
(Revised 8/24/04)

**(HQT ID Position Statement)**